



News Release

North Dakota District Office

Release Date: April 3, 2006
Release Number: ND-06-11

Contact: Sheri Weston, (701)239-5131x.210
E-mail Address: sheri.weston@sba.gov

Fargo Business Owner named SBA's Region VIII Small Business Exporter of the Year

FARGO – Howard Dahl, owner of Amity Technology in Fargo, has been named the SBA's *2006 Region VIII and North Dakota Small Business Exporter of the Year*. This annual award recognizes business owners, engaged in exporting, who exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit. The Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce nominated Dahl for the award. Dahl was selected after a statewide and region-wide competition. SBA's Region VIII consists of Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota.

Founded in 1996, Amity Technology manufactures sugar beet equipment, crop management products, Wil-Rich tillage products and also offers custom manufacturing for a limited number of clients at its facilities in Fargo.

A long time leading manufacturer of sugar beet harvesting equipment in North America, Amity Technology recognized the export potential in the countries of the former Soviet Union where sugar beet acreage is approximately four times more than the combined acreage of the United States and Canada. By tapping into this market, Amity Technology has experienced a strong growth rate and has been able to increase its workforce from 35 employees to 68, with a large part of the sales staff being attributed to the Russian market. Amity Technology regularly hosts groups from all over the world for tours and training; is committed to offering at least four internships each year; and also hosts interactive classes on the nature of a manufacturing business.

“Small manufacturers like Amity Technology are one of the greatest catalysts for new job growth in rural states like North Dakota,” states Elton Ringsak, SBA’s Regional Administrator based in Denver. “Small business is the key to new innovation and new ideas. I congratulate Howard Dahl for his high tech solution to a low tech process.”

- - -

In recognition of the small business community’s contribution to the American economy and society, the President of the United States designates one week each year as National Small Business Week. This year it is April 9-15, 2006. Leading up to that week, the U.S. Small Business Administration, a federal agency dedicated to assisting small business owners start and expand their businesses, presents awards honoring the nation’s entrepreneurs and small business champions.

For more information on all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, visit the SBA’s North Dakota website at www.sba.gov/nd/.

#